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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,696	09/29/2003	Paul Jeffrey Garnett	5681-71600	4174

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EXAMINER	
GOINS, DAVETTA WOODS	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2632	

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/673,696	GARNETT, PAUL JEFFREY	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Davetta W. Goins	2632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 September 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4-11,14-16,18,20,22-25 and 27* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *7-11,14,15 and 20* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4-6,8,16,18,22-25 and 27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/29/05
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 16, 18, 22-25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawrence et al. (US Pat. 6,867,701 B2) in view of Wong (US Pat. 5,790,374) in view of Shimomura et al. (US Pat. 6,895,183).

In reference to claims 1, 5, 16, 18, 22-25, 27, Lawrence discloses a) the claimed light directed from an indicator light source, which is met by alert indicator LED 39 (col.3, lines 28-57), and b) the claimed photodetector configured to receive a portion of the light directed by the light to produce a signal representative of the portion of light, which is met by transceiver 50, which can be a photodiode, used to detect the light from LED 39 and produce a signal for activating a rack fault indicator 55 (col. 4, lines 1-25). Although Lawrence does not disclose a light guide, he does disclose that the transceiver 50 is located opposite of the LEDs 39 such that each LED 39 can be detected by each transceiver to produce a signal indicating the activity of the server (col. 4, lines 1-25). Wong discloses a system for providing an indication as to activity of disk drives similar to Lawrence except that he provides light conduits 29 that extend from the LEDs 27 to guide the LED light to the front panel of the disk drive, allowing the user to verify any fault indications detected by the system (col. 3, lines 21-67). Shimomura discloses optical layer monitor 43 detects a communication fault due to wavelength deviation of the light source or the

optical filter, etc., by detecting OLOW (optical loss of wavelength) by, on the basis of the pass-band width characteristics of the optical wavelength division coupler 41 and light intensity under monitor, calculating an optical S/N ratio from a ratio of intensity of light having wavelength in a wavelength range including at least wavelength of the signal light to intensity of spontaneously emitted light having wavelength in a different wavelength range from the wavelength range and having similar width of the latter wavelength range or detecting OLOW (optical loss of wavelength) by monitoring the wavelength deviation of the signal light from the intensity of light having wavelength in that wavelength range (col. 15, lines 13-52). Since Lawrence discloses a plurality of LEDs that transmit light that is detected by a photodiode, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a light guide, as disclosed by Wong, as well as a controller that detects a fault in the light based on intensity and wavelength, as disclosed by Shimomura, with the system of Lawrence, as a means for directing light from each disk drive when the light is located on a backplane and needs to be directed to the front panel for easy viewing as well as ensure that the system is capable of determining whether the indicator light is working properly.

In reference to claims 2, 8, although Lawrence does not specifically disclose the claimed photodetector connectable to a controller to provide a signal to the controller, he does disclose a transceiver 50, which can be a photodiode, used to detect the light from LED 39 and produce a signal for activating a rack fault indicator 55. The transceiver 50 further including a filter and means for determining whether the detected light has a specific wavelength (col. 4, lines 1-25). Since Lawrence discloses a system that includes a photodiode that can determine whether the

light that's being detected is within a specific wavelength prior to transmitting a signal to a fault indicator 55, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a controller that will provide a means for processing the signal to ensure that the detected light is of a particular wavelength prior to sending the signal to a fault actuator.

In reference to claims 4, Lawrence discloses a) the claimed plurality indicator light sources, which is met by LEDs 39 (Figure 1), and b) the claimed plurality of photodetectors, which is met by transceivers 50 (Fig. 1).

In reference to claim 6, although Lawrence does not specifically disclose the claimed light guide comprising a cap of a light emitting diode, he does disclose a fault indicator 55 that represents a fault that's detected by the transceivers 50 receiving fault indicating lights from the LEDs 39 on the front panel of the server (col. 3, lines2-67). Wong discloses a system for providing an indication as to activity of disk drives similar to Lawrence except that he provides light conduits 29 that extend from the LEDs 27 to guide the LED light to the front panel of the disk drive shown through lenses 25 (caps), allowing the user to verify any fault indications detected by the system (col. 3, lines 21-67). Since Lawrence discloses a plurality of LEDs that transmit light that is detected by a photodiode, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a light emitting guide comprising a cap of a light emitting diode, as disclosed by Wong, with the system of Lawrence to ensure that the LED light will be clearly seen at the end of the guide by the viewer.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 7-11, 14, 15 and 20 are allowed.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Although the above references include the subject matter pertaining to a plurality of light guides, photodetectors, and a controller configured to receive a signal and determine whether a fault is present, they do not disclose the claimed limitations of a controller configured to assert a signal to an indicator light source to alter a light output and compensate for the deviation that has been detected.

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 4-11, 14-16, 18, 20, 22-25 and 27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Davetta W. Goins whose telephone number is 571-272-2957. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri with every other Fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Wu can be reached on 571-272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Davetta W. Goins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2632

D.W.G.
December 27, 2005